Digital Literacy, 2014-2015
Learning Commons Project Room

Teacher: Ms. Erin McCall, Media Specialist
Email: erin.mccall@wpsk12.org
Class Website: goo.gl/mzmdQT (Google Classroom)
Learning Commons Website: gmslc.weebly.com
Class Schedule: Day 1 Period 2; Day 3 Period 4; Day 5 Period 4

Course Description

The Digital Literacy course at Galvin Middle School will allow students to become independent and lifelong learners. Skills taught include library orientation and authentic practice accessing and using library resources, as well as digital citizenship, ethical use of information, website and source evaluation, and research and study skills. All skills will be reinforced by a variety of web and technology tools, as well as social media. This course fully supports and works in partnership with the Social Studies and English curriculum and gives students the opportunity to meet the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* set forth by the American Association of School Librarians, the Massachusetts School Library Association *Recommended Standards for PreK-12 Information Literacy Skills*, *National Educational Technology Standards* set forth by the International Society for Technology in Education, and the *Common Core State Standards.*

Expectations for Student Learning

1. The student will value and demonstrate personal responsibility, reliability, cultural understanding, and ethical behavior.
2. The student will articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively using multiple tools and media for a variety of purposes.

Course Outcomes

Students will be able to ...

1. Follow directions
2. Develop the ability to think critically
3. Develop writing, thinking, and problem-solving skills
4. Develop an understanding of what it means to be a good digital citizen
5. Identify and validate the difference between fact and opinion/bias and reach conclusions based upon evidence
6. Use technology and social media as a learning tool
7. Demonstrate effective and responsible use of technology and social media

8. Effectively collaborate and cooperate with peers
9. Reflect on and self-assess individual and group performance following project-based learning
10. Express ideas and communicate effectively with teachers and peers in person and online

Instructional Strategies

Cooperative learning groups, graphic organizers, audio-visuals, and teacher-led instruction

Methods of Assessment

Tests, quizzes, worksheets, projects, blog entries, ePortfolios, class discussions, presentations, homework, participation, departmental and school-wide rubrics.

Requirements and Grading

1. **Blog** - You will be required to maintain a blog. We will use our blogs to post the majority of the course content. This includes homework and classwork assignments, project content, and more fun stuff! It will also serve as an ePortfolio, a showcase of your work for this course.
2. **Homework** - Classwork, homework and assignments will be posted on Google Classroom page, which students are required to check on a regular basis. Homework may be assigned regularly between classes. Examples of homework assignments include, but are not limited to:
    a. Reflective writing and student-to-student communication on your blog
    b. Vocab definitions
    c. Note-taking on various topics and lessons
    d. Research applications
    e. Technology-based assignments or projects and self-assessments
    f. Discussion questions and responses

    Homework will be checked or collected and given a point value at the discretion of the teacher.
3. **Projects** – This course is project-based. We will spend a lot of time learning new material and creating and applying content based on our understanding of this material. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their understanding through a variety of formats, all of which will be assessed and graded. The use of various digital tools will offer students a toolbox of mastered presentations tools for use in high school and beyond.

4. **Assessments** – Some form of assessment will be given at the end of each unit of study and graded. All assessments will require application of the material we have learned. Types of assessment may include class discussion, written response or reflection, and group or individual projects. Formative mini-assessments may be given during a unit to better support unit assessment student achievement.
5. **Final Exam/Project** – All students are required to take a final exam in accordance with school policy. The final project, to be announced at a later date, will be worth additional weight.
6. **Grading Breakdown** –
    a. Homework/Classwork
    b. Projects
    c. Assessments
    d. Final Exam/Project
    e. Class Participation

Course Outline

Discover the Library

- Physical space – resources, people, procedures, materials
- Virtual space – resources, procedures, materials
- Understanding the difference between types of resources in both spaces

Digital Citizenship

- Develop independence using Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education in anticipation of the schoolwide 1-to-1 initiative beginning in 2015
- Increase students' awareness of their responsibilities as digital citizens
- Sessions taught through use of course website and blog, home assignments, and virtual communication with teachers
- Common Sense Media curriculum (grades 9-12) will be adapted and implemented

Website Evaluation

- URL dissection
- Understanding bias, credibility, currency, validity
- Wikipedia and similar sites
- Search engines
- Database use

The Research Process

- The Big6 Skills: task definition, information seeking strategies, location and access, use of information, synthesis, and evaluation
- Note-taking, paraphrasing, and plagiarism
- Topic selection, developing research questions, and thesis statements
- Study skills: graphic organizers, summarizers, annotations

Ethical Use of Information (Copyright and citations)

- Overview - Copyright, fair use, copyright licenses
- Works cited, citations for various media
- Research paper format
- Online citation tools, such as EasyBib

Class Expectations

- Common courtesy and respect are a requirement of this classroom. Treat your classmates, your classroom and your teacher with ***respect.***
- Always come to class prepared and on time (or have a valid pass). This means completing the homework before class starts. It also means having all of your class supplies with you. Repeated lateness will result in detention.
- When you are in this classroom, you must give this class your full attention. The use of smart phones is allowed *only* if directed by teacher. If misuse of phones is observed, the teacher reserves the right to collect the devices and return them at the end of the class period. Please refer to handbook.
- You will be expected to use your student Google accounts on a regular basis to access assignments, communicate and work collaboratively, and submit work to the teacher. Please be respectful of this online space.
- If you are absent, it is ***your*** responsibility to find out what work you are missing and to make it up in a timely manner. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to turn it when you return to school regardless of whether you have Digital Literacy class on the return date.
- If you hand in an assignment late, only partial credit will be given. If one or more classes have gone by since due date, you may receive a zero.
- Actively participate in class! Take notes, ask questions, and don't forget to have fun! We want to learn from one another and have fun doing it.

**This course syllabus was adapted with permission from Jennifer Thomas, Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School Library Media Specialist via MSLA listserv.*